



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

A **FREE!** publication of all things Fairhaven



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 15, Issue 32 • August 20, 2020

Teeming with information you need.
(And some you don't need, but will be glad you have anyway.)

Students will have back-to-school options



ABOVE: The Big Flag flies at Fairhaven High School in May of this year. Students in the Fairhaven School District will have a variety of options to choose from, including a fully remote option, and a hybrid option that includes some in-class instruction and some remote instruction. See page 12 for story. *Neighb News file photo by Beth David.*



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First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Judge Murray Gurfein, Pentagon Papers case, June 17, 1971:

"The security of the Nation is not at the ramparts alone. Security also lies in the value of our free institutions. A cantankerous press, an obstinate press, a ubiquitous press must be suffered by those in authority in order to preserve the even greater values of freedom of expression and the right of the people to know."

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

Oh, boy (or should I say “boys, boys, boys). Here we go again with these guys.

Where to begin? The Selectboard meeting (page 4), where Dan Freitas was so rude to Bob Espindola that it was embarrassing? Honestly, these guys have no clue about Open Meeting Law violations, how they’re supposed to conduct business, or even common decency.

No, Keith Silvia, you are NOT supposed to send emails to Bob. You are supposed to discuss items in open session.

Mr. Freitas told Mr. Espindola his agenda item will be a waste of time because Mr. Freitas and his #1 follower Mr. Silvia are voting “no.” Well, I don’t think it’s a waste of time if information gets out to the public. It is also never a waste of time when a politician lets people know he is going to vote “no” even before he hears all the information he would, one would think, need to make a decision.

He said the town was falling down. Yeah, guess who’s causing that, huh?

Our health agent got a clean bill of health and came back to work only to get kicked out by Mike Ristuccia, the Board of Health czar. He hires people on his own, sets their salary with no authority, and now he kicks people out of the building on his own made-up authority. Yeah, who needs a board? And what the hell was Keith Silvia doing there anyway? And the wiring inspector? What, you need muscle to push Mary out?

This is beyond embarrassing.

Somebody wake me up from this nightmare.

It’s even gone beyond popcorn worthy because it’s so disturbing. People’s livelihoods are at stake here, and these guys just strut around sticking their noses in, micromanaging everything and making life miserable for town hall workers.

So the building inspector quit, with Mr. Freitas making all kinds of cryptic comments about the building department bleeding money and stuff like that. Oh...the drama! Just cut it out, okay. The department is not bleeding money. And then all that foolishness telling Mr. Espindola that he has no clue what’s going on? Well...F—G TELL HIM, YOU NINNY! That’s what you guys are there for, to tell each other stuff so you’ll have the information you need to make decisions for the benefit of the town...the benefit of the town...not your own egos.

Embarrassing doesn’t even come close to describing it.

I suppose this editorial will earn me another round of threats about killing my business by trying to scare my advertisers. But, honestly, someone’s got to call these guys out. They can’t be allowed to continue this bullying and berating of employees.

Until next week then...see ya
(from a distance),



Beth David, Publisher

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Contents

Acushnet issues cease & desist to PJK.....	11
Classifieds	21
COVER: Back to school	12
COVID-19 update	3
Early voting available 8/22.....	22
Fairhaven BPW	18
Fairhaven health agent kicked out of town hall.....	13
Fairhaven Selectboard	4
Happenings	5, 8, 9
Horse and mule rescue from mud	6
Legal Notices/Public Hearings.....	20
Letter from the editor.....	2
From our readers	10
Senior Center/Rec. Ctr.	14
Tides	21
Upcoming meetings/Fairhaven & Acushnet	22
Womens vote centennial	14

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

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COVID-19 update: State release new interactive map

By Beth David
Editor

Massachusetts school districts are struggling with how to open schools this fall in a way that is safe for students and staff amid the COVID-19 pandemic (see page 12 for Fairhaven's plan).

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker said that communities with low numbers of new cases should open schools for in-person learning. Most communities, including Fairhaven, are opting for remote or a hybrid, remote/in-person alternating option.

Last week the state released a color coded map of all communities, making it easier for the public to see how their municipality is doing.

This week, the state released an interactive map, making it easier for people to find their communities with a search function and zoom function, available at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/community-level-covid-19-data-reporting>

Based on the average daily cases per 100,000 residents, each city or town has been designated as a higher

risk (red), moderate risk (yellow), or lower risk (green) community. Communities with fewer than 5 cases are not given a designation. Clicking on a community shows key COVID-19 statistics.

As of 8/12, Fairhaven, a green/lower risk community, shows 251 total cases, a two-week case count of five, average daily incidence rate (ADI) of 2.3, a relative change in case count rated "higher." Total tests in Fairhaven were 4,390, with 442 of those in the last 14 days. Positive tests in the last five days were five (as of 8/12). The positivity rate was 1.13% with the change in positivity rated "higher."

Acushnet is white on the map, with a total case count of 103, a two-week case count of less than five, and an ADI rate of less than 5 per 100,000. The relative change in case count was "lower" for Acushnet. Total tests were 1,858, with 242 in the last 14 days. Positive tests in the last 14 days was three. Acushnet's positivity percentage was 1.24 with the change listed as "lower."

New Bedford is listed as yellow, or moderate risk, on the map, with a total case count of 2,295, and 62 of those from the last two weeks (as of 8/12). The ADI rate was 4.45, with the change designated as "higher." Total tests were 3,259, with 76 positive tests in the two weeks prior, and a positivity rate of 2.33%, designated as higher.

Statewide, Massachusetts has 114,786 total confirmed cases, 175 on 8/18; 8,617 deaths, six of those on Tuesday, 8/18. To learn more visit <https://www.mass.gov/>

Nationwide, the USA has had 5,422,242 cases as of 8/18, with 40,117 new cases that day. Total deaths in the US is 169,870 as of 8/18 with 520 new deaths. Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html> for daily updates, interactive maps with state and county information, and other community infection information.

The state travel restrictions are still in place, except for Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York and Vermont.

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Selectboard differences on display

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

Discussion during the 8/17 Fairhaven Selectboard meeting deteriorated as the meeting entered a second hour and Chairperson Daniel Freitas lost his patience during Selectboard member Bob Espindola's request to wrap up some old business.

Mr. Freitas's and Mr. Espindola's differences of opinion were consistent throughout the night, with disagreement most evident during talks that led up to a 2-1 vote in favor of paying interim Health Agent Sarah DuPont a step 3 salary under the personnel bylaw.

Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia both voted in favor of the higher wage for the new employee, both saying that it would be unfair to offer her one rate and then two weeks later reduce it to a step as recommended by Town Administrator Mark Rees.

"We have to make some changes in the future as to how the elected officials are taken in this town, because that's my problem right now," said Mr. Freitas. "A lot more we're being sidestepped and then we're being told at some point that this is what we're gonna start paying people."

He said he could bring up several instances when employees were paid "thousands more" than the board's recommended rate, "And we were told 'no.'"

Expressing his hope that the board would back him up, Mr. Espindola replied, "I'm not sure what the sidestepping referred to. My only concern when I asked the question was about how this was going to be dealt with in terms of a precedent that it might send to someone else."

Mr. Freitas argued that the money used to pay DuPont's salary was from federal COVID-19 funds, which Mr. Espindola said should not matter.

"It's hard when you've established a precedent to do something different, so it could have more far reaching implications," said Mr. Espindola.

"To be clear," he continued, "I did not interfere with the process whatsoever."

Mr. Espindola suggested the guidelines in the personnel bylaw were established years ago in order to eliminate that very concern on inequity.

"I don't think we should be sidestepping," said Mr. Freitas. "I'm very confused as to who's the — technically in charge of who."

Meanwhile, via telephone connection to the remote meeting, Board of Health member Michael Ristuccia tried several times to interrupt to comment but was finally asked to mute his microphone until called upon.

"It's short money," said Mr. Freitas. "We're not looking at millions of dollars."

Town Counsel Thomas Crotty explained how he interpreted the law that gives authority to set the wage to the town administrator.

Mr. Freitas defended his position, saying, "If this lady hadn't stepped up or been brought in, we wouldn't have an interim health agent in there. The office would have been empty. She was brought in, technically ... the staff that was normally there wasn't there. She was offered a position, she started working...then it was decided that the pay was going to go down, as far as I know. She's got a Masters degree, she ... was in charge of a group of people, I

Mr. Espindola said he disagreed with Mr. Freitas's assumption that no one else could have stepped into the interim health agent role, and urged the board to follow Mr. Rees's advice on a lower rate.

think she's done a pretty good job.... I think it's unfair."

Mr. Espindola said he disagreed with Mr. Freitas's assumption that no one else could have stepped into the interim health agent role, and urged the board to follow Mr. Rees's advice on a lower rate. Two motions ensued, with Mr. Silvia seconding Mr. Freitas's step 3 motion.

"She came in short notice [and has] done what was asked of her," said Mr. Silvia. "I kind of feel it's an insult to pull it," adding that he had "no problem with going to the step 3."

"It might not be an issue if the advice that was originally given was followed or if there was some communication there about it in advance," argued Mr. Espindola. "But, anyway, we have two motions..."

Mr. Freitas interrupted him, saying, "Communication, Bob? That is — that is definitely lacking here. We definitely have a serious communication issue here."

"In a number of directions," said Mr. Espindola.

"Oh absolutely!" said Mr. Freitas. "One-thousand percent, I can honestly say that."

Wrapping up the agenda, Mr. Espindola wanted to follow-up on his request for a Department of Revenue study on town finances in light of COVID-19, at no cost to the Town. Back in July Mr. Espindola first proposed the study, and Mr. Freitas was not enthusiastic about the idea, but he did allow a motion to explore the study carry; however, if the two other board members reviewed the proposal in their free time and did not like it, then Mr. Rees would cease to investigate it. Mr. Espindola said that although his fellow board members later decided against the DOR study, the matter was never concluded during open meeting.

"We never actually followed through on that and spoke publicly about that," said Mr. Espindola. "We just said we'd take it offline and review ... and come back and review it in public session so the community can understand why we did or did not want to have that study done.... All I'm asking is that we ... let the public know officially why we've decided what we're doing and that we close that one out one way or the other."

"Mr. Espindola," replied Mr. Freitas, "I will say this: you've asked me this for over the several weeks — the night that we discussed this I was against it. We then allowed that evening for Mr. Silvia to take that and take it from there and he came back and voted no on this."

Mr. Espindola tried to reply, "He came back and said that he voted no"

Mr. Freitas, interrupting him, said, "He said that he did not want to bring this issue up, I believe that that is — I didn't hear that, that went through Mr. Rees."

Mr. Freitas' sentences were at times incomplete. "You asked me to ask him and I would not do that..."

Mr. Espindola immediately replied, "No, I did not ask that, all I asked was for this to be on our agenda again so that it could be a public discussion —"

"Again," said Mr. Freitas over him. "We could go back and forth on this but the...last email that said — I said to you, please find out through [Mr. Rees] whether [Mr. Silvia] wanted to do it and I think we've both said several times that

SELECT: cont'd on page 18

AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Cultural Council

If you enjoy the arts and are interested in serving your community, the Fairhaven Cultural Council is seeking new members. New and prospective members who are residents of Fairhaven are invited to apply.

Council members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen and oversee the awarding and distribution of grant monies from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and local funds for projects in the arts and humanities that directly benefit Fairhaven residents.

The council usually meets on Monday evenings for only three to four formal voting meetings throughout the year, and on an as-needed basis for other council business. Currently, the council meets remotely on Zoom, and will continue to do so until further notice. All parts of the grant application process are accessed on line as well. Members must have access to necessary computer technology and internet access to participate.

Any Fairhaven resident interested in joining the council, contact chairperson Bill Levasseur at wjlevasseur85@gmail.com for more information.

Huttleston Marketplace

Saturdays, through Sept. 12, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fairhaven Visitors Center Lawn/Fairhaven High School Lawn, 141 Main Street, at Route 6, Fairhaven

An outdoor bazaar featuring vendors selling select hand made arts and crafts, quality antiques and vintage collectibles, upcycled items, fresh farm produce, and locally prepared foods. It is a MDAR certified farmers market, allowing certified farm vendors to accept WIC and Senior FMNP coupons. It is held rain or shine. COVID-19 precautions, such as social distancing and mask wearing are required.

Visit <https://fairhaventours.com/huttleston-marketplace-weekly/> for vendor information.

For further information, contact the Fairhaven Office of Tourism at FairhavenTours@fairhaven-ma.gov or by calling 508-979-4085; on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/HuttlestonMkt> and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HuttlestonMkt>

[facebook.com/HuttlestonMarketplace/](https://www.facebook.com/HuttlestonMarketplace/).

Farmers Markets

Fairhaven Farmers Market the Bright Yellow Farm Stand, 151 Alden Road, Fairhaven (next to National Bleach). Sundays through 10/25, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Featuring beef, chicken, produce farms, honey, eggs, herbs, jams, organic soaps and bath salts. Accepts senior and WIC Farmers Market Coupons, SNAP.

Please practice social distancing and wear a mask.

Contact: 508-496-9209; allnaturalbeef@comcast.net

Roxann's Farmers Market: Sundays, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., 189 Alden Road, Fairhaven.

Pirates & Privateers

Pirates & Privateers Presentation, **Friday mornings, 10 a.m., through September. Next date: 6/19**, Fort Phoenix, south end of Fort St., Fairhaven, MA. Tour begins at fort flagpole. WEATHER PERMITTING

For Public Safety, all audience members must wear masks and maintain six feet of separation.

This fun interactive presentation includes a demonstration firing of a black powder swivel cannon, a demonstration of early medical practices and more.

There is no charge for the Pirates and Privateers presentations, but donations are accepted for the Tourism Gift Account.

You may visit Greybeard & Companie's Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/GreybeardCompanie/>

Mosquito Control

The Fairhaven Health Department reminds all residents to contact Bristol County Mosquito Control to ensure all properties have been properly sprayed for mosquitos.

Residents can find information at www.mass.gov/eea/bristolcounty/mosquitocontrol including a tentative spray schedule for which towns are done each day. Also daily, an updated list of street names will be posted for residents to see if their location is on the schedule for the next spray day.

All of this information is weather dependent and can change if needed due to mosquito populations or virus

detections.

Bristol County Mosquito Control may be reached at (508) 823-5253.

To protect against the threat of EEE:

- Use bug repellent (products with DEET, Permethrin, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus)

- Wear light-colored clothing and long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outside between dusk and dawn
- Avoid outdoor activity between dusk and dawn

Library Curbside

The Millicent Library has started curbside pickup for library items. Please call the library at 508-992-5342 on Monday through Friday from 9 to 3 for more information on making an appointment or reserving items.

You may reserve items online... make sure your account has the correct telephone number. We may be changing the way we do this so please call ahead. You may also email illfhv@sailsinc.org.

At this time only items inside this library will be available until the statewide delivery resumes.

The library building itself is still closed to the public. We are not accepting returns at this time and have placed a moratorium on book donations for the foreseeable future.

For up-to-date information and changes, please check our website at millicentlibrary.org. You can also find lots of online resources there as well.

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Marion Fire Dept rescues horse and mule from mud

Press Release

Chief Brian Jackvony reports that the Marion Fire Department rescued a horse and mule that were submerged in mud over the weekend.

On Sunday, 8/16/20, at approximately 5 p.m., Marion Fire responded to Merrow Farm on Converse Road for a report of a horse and mule stuck in mud.

Upon arrival, firefighters found the the mule, Girlie, and the horse, Tick, buried neck-deep in mud. The horse and mule were experiencing labored respiration due to being buried so deep.

Marion Firefighters, Animal Control Officer (ACO) Susan Connor and the owners of the animals dug as much mud out from around the animals as possible to reduce the pressure on the mule and horse.

A winch from the department's

brush breaker, pulleys, straps and a sling were used to extract the animals. Both animals were removed without injury and a veterinarian was present at the scene to evaluate them.

The responding units included C-1, C-2, A-1, E-1, S-2, Breaker-127 and Plymouth County Tech Rescue. Mattapoissett Fire Rescue provided station coverage during the incident.

Technical expertise was provided by ACO Connor and Washburn Stables. The technical expertise provided guidance to help prevent the animals from sustaining injury while the extrication process was ongoing.

The Plymouth County Large

Animal Rescue Team was activated and arrived on scene near the conclusion of the incident.

The scene was cleared at 8 p.m.

"We are pleased to report that both animals are recovering and doing well at this time," Chief Jackvony said. "I'd like to commend all members of the department who worked in this effort to save them. I'd also like to thank Plymouth County Tech Rescue and Mattapoissett Fire for their assistance. All parties worked cohesively for a positive outcome." ●●●



Marion Firefighters and other officials work to free Girlie the mule and Tick the horse from mud that covered them up to their necks on Sunday, 8/16/20. Both animals were successfully rescued without injury. *Photos courtesy Marion Fire Department*



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Two graduate from fire academy for Fairhaven

Press Release

State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) Director David C. Evans announced the graduation of the second class to complete the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's fifty-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program at the new Bridgewater campus on August 14, 2020.

Seventeen graduates from 11 fire departments represent Attleborough, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Fairhaven, Lakeville, Marshfield, Milton, Norwood, Rockland, Somerset, and Yarmouth.

"First responders are on the frontlines protecting their communities and these newest firefighters are needed more now than ever. We have taken advantage of technology, reduced class size to increase social distancing, implemented daily screening, and required mask-wearing to keep our instructors and students as safe as possible during these uncertain times," said State Fire

Marshal Ostroskey.

MFA Director Evans said, "This rigorous professional training provides our newest firefighters with the basic skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely and this new campus brings training closer to firefighters in the six southernmost counties." The MFA, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers

this program, tuition-free.

The two members of the Fairhaven department who graduated are Jordan Cabral and Scott Rittenhouse. They have been members of the Fairhaven FD since November 2019.

"We cannot be prouder of their accomplishment," wrote the department on its Facebook page. "Nice job boys!"



Jordan Cabral (LEFT) and Scott Rittenhouse (RIGHT) graduated from the Mass. Firefighting Academy's 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program on 8/14/20. Photo from the Fairhaven Fire Department Facebook page.

Fairhaven Rotary awards scholarships



The Fairhaven Rotary Club awarded four scholarships this week to graduating high school seniors. Stephanie Barton and Tori Kalisz received \$1,000 each; Jenna Correia and Claire Hubert received \$500 each. ABOVE LEFT: Jenna Coreia (MIDDLE) receives her oversized check for \$500 from Fairhaven Rotary member Melissa Kucharski and president Pattie Pacella. ABOVE RIGHT: L-R: Stephanie Barton receives her oversized check for \$1,000 from Fairhaven Rotary members Pattie Pacella (president) and Melissa Kucharski. RIGHT: The Fairhaven Rotary Club places an oversized check at the door of Tori Kalisz who received a \$1,000 scholarship. Submitted photos.



Early voting

See page 22 for details on early voting in New Bedford.

Dock-U-Mentary

Virtual Dock-u-mentaries:
Seadrift, Fri., 8/21, 7:00pm

Tune in for the virtual screening of our August Dock-u-mentaries film, *Seadrift*. Following the virtual screening on ZOOM, we will be joined by filmmaker Tim Tsai for a discussion of the film. Visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87103453596#susceso> to join the ZOOM Meeting.

If you are interested in watching the film but cannot make the virtual screening, please contact Hannah at programs@fishingheritagecenter.org for more information on how to watch.

In 1979, a Vietnamese refugee shoots and kills a white crab fisherman at the public town docks in Seadrift, TX. What began as a dispute over fishing territory erupts into violence and ignites a maelstrom of boat burnings, KKK intimidation, and other hostilities against Vietnamese refugees along the Gulf Coast. Set during the early days of Vietnamese arrival in the U.S., *Seadrift* is a feature documentary that examines the circumstances that led up to the shooting and its dramatic aftermath, and reveals the unexpected consequences that continue to reverberate today. Watch the trailer for *Seadrift* at <https://vimeo.com/302380147>

Thank you to BankFive for supporting our film series.

Community Mosaic

Common Ground: A Community Mosaic. New Bedford Whaling Museum to collect stories of people for exhibit Visit <https://www.whalingmuseum.org/explore/exhibitions/common-ground-community-mosaic/> to share your story.

New Bedford is an extraordinary place of infinite possibilities where different paths from around the world have intersected and defined the city's character. For the next three years, the Museum will be collecting and sharing the stories of the community — in their own words. Through writing, audio, video, and other means of recording, community members are going to have the opportunity to lend their voice to the

collective story of Greater New Bedford. The initiative will culminate in an exhibition that shares the lived experiences of the enduring and evolving communities of the area.

From its beginnings as a part of Wampanoag territory to its early Azorean and Cape Verdean immigrants, and more recent Central American and Caribbean immigrants, the common thread throughout New Bedford's history has been migration and its ethnic and cultural diversity — the heartbeat of this port city. Like a mosaic, this exhibition will highlight how the diverse identities and individual stories intersect to create a singular picture of New Bedford — finding the common ground.

Outside Exhibits

This summer, the New Bedford Whaling Museum is sharing samples of some of its gallery exhibitions, outside on its plaza at the corner of Johnny Cake Hill and William Street in New Bedford. The five-part series called *Inside Out!* launched on August 6, 2020 and runs through October 15, 2020, with a new exhibition starting every two weeks. A curator talk is scheduled for each of the five exhibitions. *Inside Out!* is on display daily, Monday through Sunday, free of charge. The Whaling Museum galleries are open Thursday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Details are available at www.whalingmuseum.org.

Next up for *Inside Out!* is *A City of Immigrants: The Standard Times Collection*, running August 20 through September 5. The Standard Times Collection of photographs captures turn-of-the-century communities and individuals in Greater New Bedford.

A virtual curator talk with de Barros Gomes takes place online on August 20, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The event is free, but advance registration is required. Register at www.whalingmuseum.org.

Inside Out! A Moment in Time, showcasing images from the Whaling Museum's photo archives, runs September 3 through September 16 and is curated by Emma Rocha, Curatorial Assistant. Each image has characteristics that makes it identifiable as being from a specific time period. Viewers will be invited to

guess the year each photograph was taken.

Bicycle Ride

On Saturday, 8/29 8:00 AM-10:00 PM, The New Bedford Starchasers will launch a 100-mile bicycle ride around Buttonwood Park, Rockdale Ave., NB, to collect back-to-school supplies for students in need.

Whether students return to school this fall or distance learning continues, they'll need supplies and the New Bedford Starchasers want to help. On the day of the event, bring donations of new unopened school supplies to any of the five drop boxes, located around the park. The supplies will be collected by riders throughout the day and distributed to students through United Way of Greater New Bedford and the New Bedford Public Schools' Family Welcome Center after the event. Can't make it to the event? Pledge your support by visiting the fundraiser page at Operation Backpack School Supply Ride (<https://charity.gofundme.com/en/campaign/operationbackpack>)

Prizes will be awarded to those dedicated riders who complete the full century with a total of 42 laps through the park, but participants can drop-in and drop-out for any amount of time that fits their schedule, between 8am and 10pm.

The New Bedford Starchasers are a multi-cultural collective of cyclists, sci-fi nerds, and makers, building spaceships out of bicycles. Hosting a monthly series of community rides, workshops, and other public events, the New Bedford Starchasers strive to be a superhero version of themselves by promoting peace, equity, and justice throughout the galaxy. All events are free, open to the public, and cosmically inclusive. All people-powered and assistive wheels are welcome. Riders are encouraged to implement all safety measures on the ride by wearing a mask, maintaining physical distance, and following the rules of the road.

To learn more about the New Bedford Starchasers please visit www.nbstarchasers.org

Outdoor Theater

The MAC Theater will present its newest production, *Good People*, written by David Lindsay-Abaire and directed by Jacob Sherburne, as an OUTDOOR LIVE theater event in Bicentennial Park, Marion

Remaining performances are Aug. 22 & 23 from 4–6 pm

Synopsis: In South Boston, this month's paycheck covers last month's rent, and tough-scrabble single-mom Margie just got fired from another job. Encouraged by her merciless bingo sisters, she looks up her high school sweetheart to see if the dust has cleared, and she can make her escape. A hilarious Boston drama about the intersection of class, gender, and race in Southie and Chestnut Hill.

The cast includes: Fairhaven's own Margo Ruggerio and Susan Sullivan, in addition to Mia Vaughn, and Paul Victor Walsh. John Emmett Pearson and Jacob Sherburne.

For tickets, directions, and more information on seating and "NEW RULES" please go to: <https://www.marionartcenter.org/events/good-people/>

Call for Walkers

Register for the 32nd Annual Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai, in Boston at Marathon Start Line, October 4, 2020; Time: 7:00 am start, 4:00 pm finish (all-day event)

On Sunday, 10/4/20, thousands will participate in the annual fundraising walk for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute to support all forms of cancer research and patient care.

Registration is now open for the **2020 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk** which will support adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The event is the only organized walk permitted on the historic Boston Marathon® course. Participants choose among four distance options:

- 5K Walk (3.1 miles) from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- 10K Walk (6.2 miles) from Newton
- Half Marathon Walk (13.1 miles) from Wellesley
- Marathon Walk (26.2 miles) from Hopkinton

Along the course, Walkers are treated to 12 refueling stations as well as poster-sized photographs of the Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes displayed at each mile marker and half-mile marker as inspiration. The Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes are adult and pediatric patients from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute who volunteer to be part of the Patient Partner Program. The volunteers are called "Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes" because they inspire the Jimmy Fund Walk community to raise critical funds for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber. The Walk culminates in Copley Square with a Finish Line celebration complete with food, music, and family fun.

All walkers commit to raise a minimum of \$330 (including the registration fee) (walkers 12 years old and younger commit to \$130 (including the registration fee)). There is also a Virtual Walker option for those unable to attend the event on October 4th.

The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$145 million in its 32-year history. When you donate to Dana-Farber's Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk, you are directly helping patients. Every dollar you donate and every step you take helps those affected by cancer.

To register or volunteer, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. **Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee.** Walkers who do not have a team to join are more than welcome to contact the Jimmy Fund Walk to connect them with other walkers in their area.

Black Girl Books

1000 Black Girl Books Resource Guide. This resource guide was created in direct response to the multiple requests made by educators, parents and students. So many of you have asked for books with Black girls as the main characters. We are sharing the first 1000 titles.

Visit <https://grassrootscommunityfoundation.org/1000-black-girl-books-resource-guide/>

Book Launch

A new local history book *Small Town, Big History: Perspectives on Westport's History* presents a collection of articles and presentations

authored by Tony Connors during his decade-long tenure as President of the Westport Historical Society. The collected essays provide us with insights into industrial development, political division, struggles for freedom, and the extraordinary achievements of the nationally significant Paul Cuffe.

"It takes a unique perspective to draw meaning from the minutiae of local history and to reveal untold stories. During his tenure as President of the Westport Historical Society, Tony Connors applied his skills as historian, researcher, and educator towards the creation of a meaningful town narrative. He pulled broad themes from stories of individual lives led in the somewhat isolated, rural town of Westport, shining a historian's light to reveal the startling fact that Westport is part of a national narrative."

(Jenny O'Neill, Executive Director)

A limited number of copies will be available in late August.

Pre-order by credit card at <https://wpthistory.org>; \$25 per book (plus \$5 shipping charge per book).

The Bell School is not yet open to the public so we can only offer books by mail.

Copies will be available for in-person purchase at Partners Village Store in late August. All proceeds benefit the Westport Historical Society.

Virtual Book Launch

Join us for a virtual book launch via Zoom 5 PM Wed., 8/26, in a preview of *Westport History 101*, local history conversation and raise a glass in memory of Tony Connors.

To register visit <https://wpthistory.org>

Low Plate Lottery

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is announcing that applications for the 2020 Low Number Plate Lottery are now being accepted online at Mass.Gov/RMV using the Online Service Center. Applicants must apply by September 6th and, if selected for a low number plate, will be notified after the drawing takes place later in September.

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/2020-low-plate-lottery> to enter.

Recipe of the Week

Venison Stew

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 pounds venison stew meat
- 3 med. (2-1/2" dia) onions, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 3 cups water
- 7 small potatoes, peeled & quartered
- 1 lb carrots, cut into 1 inch pieces
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup water

In a skillet, deeply brown the meat in oil. Add onions, garlic, Worcestershire sauce, bay leaf, oregano, salt, and water. Simmer, covered, for 1 1/2 to 2 hours, or until meat is tender.

Add potatoes and carrots; cook until tender.

Combine flour and water. Stir into the stew. Remove bay leaf before serving

From allrecipes.com

Climate letter to the Selectboard

This letter was sent to the Fairhaven Selectboard on 8/13/0
Dear Bob, Dan and Keith,

We respectfully ask for your vote in favor of the 10% across-the-board increase in RECs in the 2021 Good Energy contract to protect our Town's coastal vulnerabilities. So did the majority of the 128 respondents to the Town's recent survey. (To put that in context, 139 people attended July's Town Meeting.)

This 10% RECs increase is a clear opportunity to protect the community from future hazards. By supporting this action now, you'll show that you care about mitigating the risks from the climate-related hazards we collectively face.

Connect the dots, please! A vote against this 10% increase would be completely inconsistent with the Town's ongoing work toward a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness planning grant, which seeks funding to deal with the following **known hazards** which climate change amplifies:

- *Sea Level Rise* — including long-term changes to shoreline, flood and erosion hazard areas, base flood elevations, etc.
- *Flooding including coastal flooding (recurring tidal events, storm surge,*

wave action, etc.) and inland flooding (heavy rainfall + stormwater/drainage events).

- *Severe Storms* — including hurricanes, nor'easters, winter storms, and other extreme weather events.
- *Heat and Drought* — including increasing temperatures, heat waves, consecutive dry days, etc

The determination of these top hazards was informed by the conclusions of previous hazard planning efforts as well as updated information and relevant data on climate change and future conditions (including downscaled climate projections for the Buzzards Bay Basin).

From: Town of Fairhaven Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning Grant.

As you take this critical vote for the future safety of our Town, please consider this: How would your constituents, your neighbors, your children, and your grandchildren feel about a vote against their future safety?

Thank you for your time.

With best regards,

*Laura Gardner, Co-Chair
Jean Lawlor, Communications Chair
Climate Reality MA Southcoast*

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Acushnet issues cease & desist orders to PJ Keating

By Beth David
Editor

The town of Acushnet issued three cease & desist orders to PJ Keating, which should have shut down their operations, including the quarry at their South Main Street facility. However, the company has refused to stop operations, forcing the town to explore further actions against PJK.

On August 7, the New Bedford District Court granted the town an administrative search warrant to conduct an inspection at PJK, according to letters to the company from the Board of Health and the Soil Board. During that inspection, town officials, including the health agent, conservation agent, and soil board and selectboard members, found more than 20 violations at the quarry, the hot mix asphalt plant, and the stone-crushing and stockpile areas; and lists 20 actions needed for compliance.

On August 10, the Board of Health issued a cease & desist order; on August 12, the Selectboard, which issues the solid removal permit, issued a C&D; and on August 13, the

Conservation Commission issued one due to violations of the Wetlands Protection Act.

Also on August 12, Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher issued an order stopping the company from blasting. The blasting permit is issued monthly by the Fire Chief. His C&D order requires no blasting until the concerns listed in the town's other C&D orders are addressed.

"Despite these orders, PJ Keating continues to operate its South Main Street facility," wrote Chief Gallagher in a statement on August 13. "These actions were not taken lightly. They impact a longstanding Acushnet business with deep ties to the community. It is our collective belief that having longstanding ties does not result in a removal from responsibility. PJ Keating has a right to operate within the restrictions placed on them by federal, state and local regulations. The regulations are put in place to protect the health, safety and environment of our residents. The Town of Acushnet expects them to play by the rules, plain and simple."

"It is our hope that these orders can be lifted as quickly as possible."

In a phone interview, Chief Gallagher said that the town and the company have had a few exchanges about the violations and the company's refusal to comply with the cease & desist orders.

"The town expected their orders to be complied with," said Chief Gallagher. "Now, other options, including possible litigation need to be explored."

He said the health agent, conservation commission, town administrator and town counsel are all engaged in discussions to that end.

Violations include: Mining waste (silt) being dumped and stockpiled in the rear of the property and the amount of waste is excessive and causing nuisance conditions of Fugitive Dust, Sedimentation, and Erosion; the side slopes of the mining waste/silt are not in compliance with best management practices (BMP) and are contributing to erosion and sedimentation impacts to stormwater and the environment; several items

ACUSH: cont'd on page 16

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Students will be offered back-to-school options

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

Some Fairhaven students will return for full-time in-person learning when the school year begins 9/15, but most students will be offered either a hybrid of in-person and virtual learning or the option to go fully remote through a third-party online learning provider.

The Fairhaven School Committee voted on 8/12 to reopen school full-time only to students in pre-school, grades 1-2, and students placed in one of the substantially separate special education classrooms.

Students in kindergarten and grades 3-12 that participate in the hybrid option will be separated into two cohorts, A and B, with an alternating schedule of one week of school in the physical classroom followed by one week of virtual online learning from home. While cohort A is attending school one week, cohort B will be virtually learning independently from home via the computer and vice versa.

The fully remote learning option will be provided completely online by TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School (TECCA), an already established accredited online public school that adheres to the Massachusetts curriculum and standards for grades K-12.

Superintendent Dr. Robert Baldwin knows his proposal for the mid-pandemic 2020-2021 school year might not be what parents, students, and educators want to hear, saying: "I totally have empathy and respect and understand that people may disagree with what is being presented, but I am going to try the best I can to say these are the parameters with which we are proposing to the School Committee and it is the [committee's] role to either vote them in or not."

Dr. Baldwin's proposal to go hybrid and only open the classroom full-time to grades 1-2 was based on whether there was adequate space to accommodate safe distancing of desks, enough teachers, and whether the budget could support additional teachers.

"Every decision we've made has safety behind it," said Dr. Baldwin. "The mode of hybrid that we're recommending is based on safety, the mode of distancing in classroom is

based on safety.... The safety of our children and our educators is our top priority."

The district underwent a state-mandated school reopening feasibility study on its four schools and determined that it could accommodate a hybrid model for most grades and keep desks six feet apart. As a result, fewer students can fit into a classroom and more teachers would be needed for in-person learning.

"Decisions that are made regarding the reopening of school are guided by facts, science, and data in the context of Massachusetts, and Fairhaven in particular," said Dr. Baldwin.

A graph showing the state's COVID-19 positivity rate compared with other states shows it at the lower end of the graph at or below 5%.

"If I were living in a different state I'd be making a different decision," said Dr. Baldwin. "We live in

It is not what we did in
the spring. It is a more
robust program
Chairperson Brian Monroe

Massachusetts, the decision needs to be made in the context of Massachusetts."

Dr. Baldwin displayed the Department of Public Health's new color-coded metric of each municipality in the state showing those with higher infection rates in red and yellow, and lower rates in green and white. For red and yellow-shaded towns, a hybrid learning model is recommended. Green and white areas are where full-time in-person and hybrid models are recommended. Fairhaven and Acushnet are both white with fewer than five new cases in the past two weeks.

"If there's not a time to get kids back now, when is there a time?" said Dr. Baldwin.

He said the feasibility study helped determine the safest mode possible of returning to school, but added, "And I didn't say 100-percent safe — safest."

He told parents and guardians: "You need to make the best decision

for your families moving forward."

The in-person grades 1-2 classrooms will contain roughly 12-15 students each spaced six feet apart. Grade 1-2 students will also be offered the remote option, but the hybrid model will not be available.

"Grades one and two are when you learn to read," said Dr. Baldwin. "Those are pivotal primary years when you learn to read and we said we were going to prioritize the academic program. We've said that from the start."

Grades 3-12 broken into two cohorts will be roughly nine-10 students in the classroom at one time while the other group learns virtually from home. The cohorts will work on one continuous curriculum, Dr. Baldwin said, adding that the virtual learning week would not be limited to enrichment and review of what was taught in-person.

"It is not what we did in the spring," said Chairperson Brian Munroe. "It is a more robust program that's going to have a schedule [and] routine [and is] part of the overall graded coursework."

The remote option with TECCA includes core courses taught by a teacher live online twice a week. Designated Fairhaven staff will be assigned to each remote student to monitor enrollment, attendance, and "to make sure this is happening," said Dr. Baldwin. The work will be graded and attendance documented.

"It's the real deal," said Dr. Baldwin, not the "emergency program" of prior months.

The TECCA program is facilitated by TECCA teachers, and according to their website, www.connectionsacademy.com, structured lessons are blended with self-paced learning in core subject and electives, including Honors and Advanced Placement levels. TECCA also offers an online special education curriculum individually tailored to meet the student's needs and facilitated by special education and general education teachers.

Remote students should expect a daily schedule of six hours of online learning.

Students without access to an online device may be provided one of several brand new laptops purchased by the school.

SCHOOLS: cont'd on next page

SCHOOLS: cont'd from previous page

"If you choose that route you will get the education that you need and deserve," said Mr. Munroe. "It's the real deal and many people currently use it now... and it's good stuff."

For parents who had considered homeschooling their children: "I totally respect that," Dr. Baldwin stated, "but don't leave us yet because [TECCA] is a really viable, robust program that people may choose to partake."

Dr. Baldwin made it clear that whether parents choose the hybrid or remote option, that decision is final. He said four weeks into the school year a parent might decide to switch from the remote to hybrid, but adding additional students to in-person learning would impact student safety once classrooms are configured.

"We can't have people in and out," he said. "We cannot be fluid and safe."

Based on the data, Dr. Baldwin said it would be foolish for Fairhaven to adopt a remote-only learning model

for the entire district.

"This is temporary," said Dr. Baldwin. "We all want to go back to regular life and we all want our kids to be back in school with a Fairhaven teacher learning the way they used to learn. It's not going to be that way...It's going to be different."

He cautioned parents on minding their reactions to the reopening plan.

"There are going to be things that you're going to be okay with and there's going to be information you're going to get over the coming weeks that you're going to be upset about," said Dr. Baldwin. "All I can say is I'm in the same boat as you, I feel the same things you feel, but how I react to those things in front of my children will directly impact how they will react to those things."

The next survey will be sent out to parents immediately and they will be asked to make a final commitment to one of the learning models by 8/24.

At the next meeting on 8/19 the

superintendent will present the safety protocols for returning to school and vote on a mask and face covering policy. Upon first review of the proposed mask policy, Mr. Munroe recommended removing a section exempting students in grades 1 and below from requiring masks.

"Everyone in our school is required to wear a mask. Period. The end," said Mr. Munroe.

Only students with a doctor's note stating a valid medical reason will be exempt. The "I can't do it" reason is not acceptable, he said. "Whether you agree with masks or not, quite frankly, it doesn't matter...You want to come to school in Fairhaven, you're going to wear a mask unless you have a doctor's note stating why you can't. You don't have to like me for it — I don't care. The bottom line is this is the policy that we're going to set."

Non-compliance would be dealt with as any other disciplinary matter, he stated.

Fairhaven health agent kicked out of town hall

By Beth David
Editor

Fairhaven Health Agent Mary Freire-Kellogg, who has been on medical leave for about a month, was cleared by her doctor to return to work. When she did, she posted a picture of herself on Facebook at her desk, but the perch was short-lived. Within minutes of arriving she was ordered to leave her post and the building by Board of Health member Michael Ristuccia on Tuesday, 8/18/20.

She said the "interim" health agent Sarah Dupont arrived and they introduced themselves. Ms. Dupont left and within 20 minutes Mr. Ristuccia showed up and ordered Ms. Freire-Kellogg to leave.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg said the schedule was according to the original timeline: She had her appointment with her doctor on Monday, 8/17, and he cleared her to work with no restrictions. She sent the doctor's note to the board via email, and also to Town Administrator Mark Rees and Human Resources Director Anne O'Brien.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg said that Mr. Ristuccia told her she had five minutes to leave the building and for some unknown reason, John Cottrell,

the wiring inspector, was also present during her conversation with Mr. Ristuccia; and out in the hall, Selectboard member Keith Silva was also present until she left the building.

She also asked for the HR Director to be present, but Mr. Ristuccia refused her request.

"Isn't that the normal course of action?" she said in a phone interview.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg said she called the HR Director who told her the Town Administrator advised her to call town counsel Thomas Crotty. But Ms. Freire-Kellogg said she does not have the authority to call Mr. Crotty.

"I said 'why are you screaming at me?'" said Ms. Freire-Kellogg referring to Mr. Ristuccia, who said he was not yelling at her, and she told him he definitely was yelling at her.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg said she handed a copy of her doctor's note to Mr. Ristuccia, who acknowledged that he had received it by email.

"I said I would appreciate it if you would read it now. And he said 'I'll read it when I want,'" said Ms. Freire-Kellogg. "So I sat on the steps of town hall and wrote a narrative about what happened."

She said she did not email the doctor's note to BOH chairperson

Peter DeTerra because of a harassment charge she has against him; they are not allowed to have that kind of direct contact, so she asked for it to be forwarded to him. She also put a hard copy in the mail slots of all three board members at town hall. She said she did not have the email of new member Geoffrey Haworth, who was appointed while she was on leave.

In her email note on Monday, Ms. Freire-Kellogg said she told them she would be back at work at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, ready to work and looking forward to working with a full board,

She said she had no idea why she would not be allowed to return as planned.

Mr. Ristuccia told her that Mr. DeTerra was on vacation, so that left Mr. Ristuccia to make the decision.

"He said the board will decide when I come back," not her, she said.

While on the phone interview with the *Neighb News*, Ms. Freire-Kellogg said she got a notice to attend an executive session on Monday, 8/24, at 3:30 p.m.

"I thought Peter was on vacation and couldn't be reached," she said.

A voicemail message left for Mr. Ristuccia was not answered by press time.

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- Members must adhere to social distancing guidelines
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Fairhaven Council on Aging

The Fairhaven Council on Aging Senior Center remains closed to the public until further notice. The staff is available to take phone calls and to assist you in any way possible.

Medicare Open Enrollment

SHINE appointments for MEDICARE open enrollment will be available from October 15th to December 7th SHINE APPOINTMENTS ARRANGED BY THE FAIRHAVEN COUNCIL ON AGING ARE FOR FAIRHAVEN SENIORS ONLY. Seniors from surrounding communities can call the Council on Aging in their Town for SHINE information.

If you have a Medicare Prescription Plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan (HMO or PPO), you should receive a notice from your plan by the end of September. This notice outlines changes to be made to your plan for 2021. During this open enrollment period, you will be able to make changes to this plan.

Due to social distancing guidelines set by the state, no appointments for SHINE will be held at the Fairhaven COA, however, SHINE counselors will be working from home in an effort to meet your Medicare informational needs.

All correspondence between the seniors and the SHINE counselor will be done over the phone and email, if possible. Exchange of paperwork can be done through the senior center by calling the senior center from the parking lot. Someone will come out to get, or give, you your paperwork, SHINE feels confident that they will continue to be able to provide their outstanding service to those seeking assistance during this crazy and unprecedented time.

Please call the Fairhaven Council on Aging at 508-979-4029, for an appointment to speak with a SHINE counselor.

Women's Vote Centennial Initiative

From the Website

The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote. This historic centennial offers an unparalleled opportunity to commemorate a milestone of democracy and to explore its relevance to the issues of equal rights today. The Women's Vote Centennial Initiative, a collaboration of women-centered institutions, organizations, and scholars from across the US, works to ensure that this anniversary, and the 72-year fight to achieve it, are commemorated and celebrated throughout the United States.

Museums, institutions, nonprofits, and groups around the country are celebrating and honoring the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment and the work of the remarkable women who fought for its passage with special programs, events, and exhibits throughout 2020.

Visit <https://www.2020centennial.org/exhibits-2> to visit many of these virtually.

For Massachusetts events and information, visit Suffrage 100 MA at <https://suffrage100ma.org>

To see "Suffragist of the Month" display panels from 2017 to now, visit <https://suffrage100ma.org/suffrage-centennial-display-panel-project/>

The panels are on display in the Commonwealth Museum lobby and are on the Commonwealth Museum's website at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mus/suffragists.html>

Panels include information on the suffragist movement, and on individuals including Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin who established clubs for Black women that advocated civil rights and suffrage; Maria Louise Baldwin, who began with participation in school committee elections; Matilda Joslyn Gage, a suffragist writer and speaker who began her activism as an abolitionist, advocated

for the rights of Native Americans, and her son-in-law was L. Frank Baum who wrote the "Wizard of Oz"; Harriett Tubman, who helped many slaves escape by the Underground Railroad; Julia Ward Howe, who wrote the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and was committed to abolition and women's equality and suffrage; Lucy Stone, who has been called the "heart and soul" of the suffrage movement, founding the Boston based American Woman Suffrage Association and becoming editor of "The Woman's Journal," the most influential national publication advocating women's suffrage; Louisa May Alcott, who wrote "Little Women"; Amelia Bloomer, known for her controversial advocacy of dress reform; Ernestine L. Rose, who became one of America's leading suffragists after invalidating a marriage arranged for her in Poland; Frederick Douglass, who played a pivotal role in the debate; and many others.



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SELECT: cont'd from page 4

we do not want this on the – that this is not an agenda item.

“I don’t know why we’re going to take time and waste it if there are two people who’ve said – but I will say this,” continued Mr. Freitas. “If you want to do that, I will bring up some of the stuff that I had in the past that I had brought up that I was ignored on and was not even given the opportunity to continue to ask for it.”

Mr. Freitas said that some of his past agenda item requests went ignored by Mr. Espindola and former Selectboard member Charles Murphy. He also mentioned an issue he had with the Building Department, and later made accusations of accounting issues within the department.

Mr. Freitas insisted that he always puts Mr. Espindola’s agenda item requests on for him, despite the alleged “eye rolls” Mr. Freitas got for his own past agenda requests.

“...And now we’re trying to deal with it now ... a year and a half later, we’re still having the same problems we were having back then, so I would say shame on certain individuals for letting that happen,” said Mr. Freitas, adding that he could not understand why they need to discuss the DOR study any further.

“Again,” said Mr. Espindola, “a public process that starts in our public meeting deserves to be concluded in our public meeting. Saying that we don’t want to put it on the agenda doesn’t solve that problem. There was a motion and a second by you, Mr. Chairman, that ... if the majority did not want the letter to go to the DOR then it wouldn’t go, but we would come back...”

Mr. Freitas interrupted, “Bob, you’ll have your DOR report on there, but I’m gonna tell you right now – I’m gonna have a list yourself that I’m gonna bring up myself,” he said pointing his finger at Mr. Espindola.

“I’m gonna tell you right now, I’m gonna bring it up. I’m gonna show you the meetings when I discussed this and it was never ever brought up again at those meetings.”

“The question is, did you ask for it to be on an –” Mr. Espindola tried to ask Mr. Freitas.

“Absolutely! Absolutely!” said Mr. Freitas. “I actually went and sat with the town administrator on some of this stuff, so these things should have been on – that’s why we have a bad communication problem here.”

Mr. Freitas told Mr. Espindola he

would put the DOR study on the next agenda and said, “...And you can waste all of our time doing this as far as you want. As far as I’m concerned, if this is what we’re gonna do every time somebody says ‘no’ and the answer’s ‘no’, we’re gonna continue to berate and bring it up, you absolutely can do this. I’ll put it on the next agenda meeting and at that point we will publicly state again that we’re against it...”

“Mr. Silvia never publicly made a comment, all he said is he wanted time to review it,” said Mr. Espindola.

Mr. Silvia said to Mr. Espindola, “Did you get my email, Bob, that I said I didn’t want to...”

“OK,” said Mr. Espindola. “Emails are not supposed to be deciding.... My question is, how do we close out the loop on a motion that was made and a second –”

Mr. Freitas interrupted and looked to Mr. Rees: “Could we please put this on

“Bob,” said Mr. Freitas, “I can say that you are unaware of a lot of things that are happening.

“I’m aware of some things,” said

Mr. Espindola.

“You are completely unaware,” asserted Mr. Freitas.

the next agenda? We’ll sit here and – would you like the gentleman to come in too?” he asked Mr. Espindola.

“Yes, I would,” said Mr. Espindola. “I think it’s a very important matter.”

Speaking over him, Mr. Freitas agreed and lamented, “...We’ll sit there and then we’ll explain to him that he’s having his time wasted....”

He then suggested that Mr. Espindola didn’t appreciate the urgency of other matters beyond the DOR study.

“Town Hall is falling down around us, OK? And if that’s what’s more important to you than the other things that I’ve mentioned at these meetings – I will give you a DOR report, ok?” said Mr. Freitas.

“The town’s budget is very important,” said Mr. Espindola, “because the town, financially, we have resources. Financially, we can solve a lot of problems.”

“We don’t have a Board of Health right now!” Mr. Freitas said over him loudly. “We have a serious morale

problem ... but I’m going to give you time with your gentleman, but ... you yourself said you’d rather wait for the morale problems, yourself – you said that, you absolutely said that,” Mr. Freitas continued as Mr. Espindola denied it. “You’d rather wait for a grant to be written on this and ... when it comes to the finding out the funding problems that we’re having in the Building Department, I don’t see – That should be priority number one!”

Mr. Espindola said he just wanted to explore a grant to fund the morale study before he could commit to funding it.

“I didn’t know where this money was going to come from,” said Mr. Espindola. “I had no idea how much it was going to cost.”

He said the Town had just asked department heads to make drastic cuts to their budgets and continued, “On one hand we’re hearing we’ve got to make significant cuts; on the other hand we’re saying let’s just charge forward with a study that we don’t even know how much it’s going to cost, but maybe we could get a grant for it.... We have an obligation to identify a funding source for anything that we authorize ... that’s all,” said Mr. Espindola.

Mr. Freitas shook his head and whispered “Jesus...” and laughed.

Mr. Silvia said the board should fund the morale study, one of his top priorities.

“I think, if we straightened out the morale here, we probably would save so much legal fees because we have lawyers like a constant here.”

“Some of these issue are coming from outside the building,” said Mr. Espindola, “but just be aware of that.”

“Bob,” said Mr. Freitas, “I can say that you are unaware of a lot of things that are happening.

“I’m aware of some things,” said Mr. Espindola.

“You are completely unaware,” asserted Mr. Freitas.

“The bottom line is ... I just want an answer ... on how we’re gonna pay for it and in the context of our budget, if we can do that, I am 100 percent in favor of it,” said Mr. Espindola.

“You’ll have your DOR study,” said Mr. Freitas. “And if you want, you can make it an hour or whatever, I don’t know, whatever you want to do.

“Thank you,” Mr. Freitas said abruptly ending the discussion, and then mumbled “Ridiculous,” as he shook his head.

BPW discusses issues at Town Beach

By Mary Macedo

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Monday 8/3 the Fairhaven Board of Public Works discussed issues at Town Beach, and also met with ABC Disposal.

The board first met ABC Disposal representatives via Zoom. At the previous BPW meeting, Superintendent Vinnie Furtado said that ABC has been missing pickup areas frequently and the town has been getting a lot of complaints. Mr. Furtado said they have reached out to ABC via email and phone calls and ABC has said they would go back and pick up trash they forget but then they do follow through. Mr. Furtado said the communication with the ABC employees has been minimal, and ABC employees have stopped answering the town's emails.

Mr. Furtado said he understood that ABC has had a huge turnover in employees and has a lot of new hires, but missing pickups is not the problem. Mr. Furtado said the problem is that ABC says they will go back and pick up trash they forgot and then they do not show up. He said he also has a problem with ABC not answering their emails or calls.

ABC representatives Mike Camara and Jerry Dugan spoke via Zoom to the board and agreed that there were quite a few issues going within the company because of employee turnovers. They said that the dispatcher at ABC is new to the job, but they will be following up with her every day to make sure everything gets picked up within the town.

They also said they will speak to the drivers and the dispatcher about the issues going on and keep track of what is happening on a daily basis.

Mr. Camara and Mr. Dugan said they love working with the town of Fairhaven and want to keep the relationship with the town for a long time.

In another matter the board met with Linda Costa about sewer issues she had spoken about at the previous BPW meeting. Ms. Costa met with the board last week to discuss how a tree in her yard has been damaging her sewer pipe for years and has resulted in sewer issues, as well as caused a sinkhole on her street.

Mr. Furtado helped get Ms. Costa in contact with the tree warden to take a better look at the tree.

Mr. Furtado explained that last week they sent a sewer crew to the property to film the sewer line. He said the line is okay for now, but when the sinkhole happened the sewer pipe had detached from a section of the sewer because of the tree.

Ms. Costa said they are on a wait list to have the tree removed, but she does not know how long it will be until it is removed. She said she will not get her sewer pipe fixed until the tree is gone.

In another matter the board discussed an issue they have been having at town beach. They met with town beach parking attendant Gary Lavalette via Zoom.

Mr. Lavalette said the man began screaming, shouting the "f" word. and the person told them that they would all lose their jobs because he knows people in high places...the person told them, "You don't know who I am."

BPW Vice Chairperson Robert "Hoppy" Hobson said that there have been a couple people being rude to Mr. Lavalette and the young women who help with parking. Mr. Hobson said people are getting mad about putting their beach sticker on their car and about being told where to park. He said that they should be taking down the license plate numbers of these people and should take their beach stickers away. He said that there has been so much activity on the beach and Mr. Lavalette and the young women have been doing a great job.

Mr. Lavalette explained that they had a big issue last weekend when they had to call the police. He said a gentleman refused to put the beach sticker on his car because he said he

has three cars he uses the sticker for.

Mr. Lavalette said he informed the person that the sticker was not transferable and that he needed to put it on his car. Mr. Lavalette said the man began screaming, shouting the "f" word. and the person told them that they would all lose their jobs because he knows people in high places. Mr. Lavalette said the person told them, "You don't know who I am."

Mr. Lavalette said the person blew past them and parked and went to the beach. He put a note on the man's car to contact administration with his concerns.

Mr. Lavalette said when the man saw the note on his car on his way out he made a huge scene which resulted in Mr. Lavalette having to call the police and file an incident report.

He said one of the young parking attendants was so distraught about the man yelling that she called her father to pick her up. Mr. Lavalette said the employee is very uncomfortable continuing to work there.

Mr. Lavalette said that he wrote down the man's license plate number and he believes they should revoke his beach pass.

The board agreed that the man's actions were unnecessary and made a motion to revoke this resident's beach pass. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lavalette also explained that he has been receiving a few complaints about a group of parasailers that go to the beach. He said that people have complained that the parasailers are too close to the beach and swimmers.

He said he spoke with the leader of the group and they agreed to move their group farther away from beach goers.

In another matter the board discussed changing the sewer clean-out policy. Mr. Furtado asked the board if the policy should say that all new houses should put a sewer clean out outside of the home, such as at the end of the property/sidewalk.

The board agreed that they should add the policy going forward to make sewer clean outs easier, so sewer employees will not have to enter peoples' homes to do clean outs.

In another matter Mr. Furtado

BPW: cont'd on page 21

Public Hearings/Legal Notices

NOTE: All legal notices are available on the Neighb News website, www.NeighbNews.com, under the "Legal Notices" tab on the top of the main page. Legal ads are also available at <http://masspublicnotices.org>, search under "Fairhaven Neighborhood News"

Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

Wednesday, September 2, at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Banquet Room, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

ZOOM INFORMATION:

<https://zoom.us/j/95172165386?pwd=Zm1FeWdyazIsZjdlamFRN3p2Vki5QT09>
Meeting ID: 951 7216 5386

Passcode: 092513or Call 1-240-903-4218
(pin#:692724981)

- Administrative Appeal by Fairhaven Shipyard – re: 7 Union Street.** Seeking reversal of zoning determination by the Town of Fairhaven Building Commissioner dated February 20, 2020. **Continued** from April 7, 2020, May 5, 2020, June 2, 2020, and July 7, 2020, and August 11, 2020.)
- Administrative Appeal by A1 Crane – re:86-88 Middle Street.** Administrative Appeal from a letter dated April 7, 2020 from the Building Commissioner stating that the operation on the site is in violation of the Mixed Use zoning regulations. (continued per applicant's request to September 2, 2020 Meeting.)
- 84 Cottonwood Street.** Petitioner: Steven Rogers. Owners: Hassett, Todd & Juliana. 198-16 Special Permit request to build an accessory building on a lot without a principal use.
- 902 Scoticut Neck Road.** Applicant: Dana Pickup. Owner: Lewis, John. 198-16: Variance request for a 10'8" side setback that requires a 20' side setback in a RR District.
- 3 Spring St.** Petitioner: Jeff & Pam Kuckuk. 198-16: Variance request for 6' roof height, over the maximum height of 35' allowed in a RA District.
- 6 Emerson Ave.** Petitioner: Michael Ristuccia. Owner: Natalie Reis 198-22(3): Variance to allow an accessory structure to be built in the front yard.

Peter DeTerra, Chairman
FNN: 8/20/20, 8/27/20

INVITATION TO BID Green Street – Phase III Roadway Improvement Project, Fairhaven, MA

Town of Fairhaven Massachusetts invites bids from general contractors for construction of the Green Street – Phase III Roadway Improvement Project in accordance with documents prepared by GCG Associates, Inc.

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By submission of a bid, the Bidder agrees that this bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of 30 days, Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays excluded after the opening of bids.

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documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.biddocsonline.com. Tutorials and instruction on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab at the bottom footer).

General Bids will be received until **10:00 A.M., September 3, 2020** and publicly opened online, forthwith. General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates) and made payable to the **Town of Fairhaven**.

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Fairhaven Board of Selectmen
FNN 8/20/20

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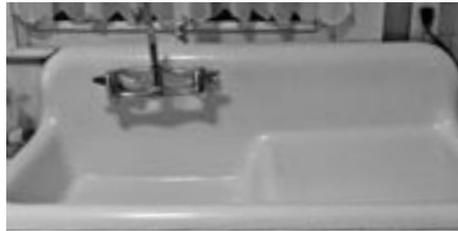
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BPW: cont'd from page 19

asked if they would still like to hold the town auction this September given the social distancing concerns with COVID.

BPW Chairperson Brian Wotton said that they can schedule viewing times for the auction, as well as tell people to look but not touch the items.

Mr. Wotton said it should be fine to social distance because it can be held outside. He said they also can require masks in case people are not able to stay apart. They should also offer a Zoom option for people who are not comfortable attending in person because of COVID.

The board agreed that they should still hold the town auction this September.

Upcoming Meetings

In-person attendance is restricted during the COVID-19 crisis. The information on how to join remotely is listed on the agendas. Most meetings also run live on the government access channels, and Fairhaven meetings are livestreamed at FairhavenTV.com

Fairhaven Board of Appeals

Wed., 9/2, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Health

Mon., 8/24, Town Hall, 3:30 p.m.

Broadband Study Comm

Wed., 8/26, Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 8/24, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board

Tues., 8/25, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 8/26, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Tues., 9/8, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

Board of Assessors

Tues., 8/25, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Library Board of Trustees

Tues., 8/25, Library/Zoom, Noon

Selectboard

Tues., 9/1, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

US Army Corps of Engineers, Cape Cod Canal/Wing's Neck

	Aug 2020	HIGH a.m.	LOW p.m.	HIGH a.m.	LOW p.m.
Thursday	20	0935	2157	0251*	1511*
Friday	21	1025	2246	0339*	1603*
Saturday	22	1115	2337	0422*	1650*
Sunday	23	----	1208	0505*	1738*
Monday	24	0033	1307	0552*	1838
Tuesday	25	0133	1405	0650	2005
Wednesday	26	0231	1503	0805	2205
Thursday	27	0331	1605	0923	2339
Friday	28	0438	1713	1133	----
Saturday	29	0546	1812	0038	1239
Sunday	30	0638	1859	0128	1330
Monday	31	0722	1941	0217	1419
	Sept 2020	HIGH a.m.	LOW p.m.	HIGH a.m.	LOW p.m.
Tuesday	1	0802	2021	0301	1501
Wednesday	2	0842	2101	0333	1511
Thursday	3	0923	2141	0320	1508
Friday	4	1002	2220	0320	1534

*= Predicted minus tides from -0.1 ft. to -1.0 ft
**Predicted minus tides from -1.1 ft to -2.0 ft or more

Early voting available on 8/22 for September 1 primary

By Beth David
Editor

Early voting will be available as of this Saturday, 8/22, for the state's primary election on 9/1.

Contested primaries on both the Democratic and Republican sides for US Senator are Joe Kennedy challenging incumbent Edward Markey on the Democratic side. On the Republican side, Shiva Ayyadurai and Kevin O'Connor are vying for the chance to take on the Democrat.

All municipalities in Mass. will offer vote by mail, in-person early voting, and in-person voting on 9/1. Early voting dates are 8/22 to 8/28 including the weekend.

The last day to register to vote in the primary is Saturday, 8/22. The last day to apply by mail for an absentee or early ballot is 8/26. The last day to apply in person for an absentee or early ballot is 8/31.

To apply for an Absentee or an Early Vote by mail ballot:

Send in the postcard you received by mail from the State OR Go to the Mass.gov website (<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/2020-Vote-by-Mail-Application.pdf>) to print out and sign the application, then send it to the Town Clerk's Office by mail, fax, or email.

In Fairhaven send to 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719, Fax to 508-979-4079 or email to clerk@fairhaven-ma.gov; In Acushnet, send to 130 Main Street (Parting Ways), Acushnet, MA 02743, or fax to 508-998-0216.

After you send in the postcard, the clerk will send your ballot to you with instructions on how to return it, including the location of drop off options.

Applications must reach your local election office by August 26 for the State Primary on 9/1. Applications must reach your local election office by October 28 for the State Election on 11/3.

In-person early voting.

FAIRHAVEN

For details on early voting polling places and times in Fairhaven, visit <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/town-clerk/pages/state-primary-election-2020> or call the Town Clerk at 508-979-4023, Ext. 3

ACUSHNET

Early voting will be available for the September 1 primary at the Parting Ways Building, 130 Main Street, Acushnet.

- Saturday, 8/22: 3-7 p.m.
- Sunday, 8/23: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Mon., Wed., Thurs., 8/24, 26, 27: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Tues., 8/25: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Fri., 8/25: 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Visit <https://www.acushnet.ma.us/home/news/state-primary-september-1st-early-voting-in-person-schedule> or call the Town Clerk at 508-998-0215.

In person

Polls will be open for in-person voting from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 9/1, and voters will vote at their regular polling places.

In Fairhaven the Fairhaven Council on Aging is providing transportation services to seniors in need. Call 508-979-4029 at least one day in advance to set up a ride.

Call the Acushnet Town Clerk at 508-998-0215.

In New Bedford

The New Bedford Election Commission has announced that Early Voting for the 2020 state primary election will be held at the New Bedford Main Library, 613 Pleasant Street, from Saturday August, 22 through Friday, August 28.

Any voter who wishes to cast their ballot in person prior to Election Day, September 1, may do so at the Main Library during the following hours:

- Saturday, 8/22: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, 8/23: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Monday, 8/24: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Tuesday, 8/25: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, 8/26: 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, 8/27: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Friday, 8/28: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Voters may cast their votes for: Senator in Congress; Representative in Congress; Senator in General Court; Representatives in General Court for the Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Thirteenth Bristol Districts; County Treasurer; County Commissioner; Governor's Councillor; and Register of Probate.

As usual, on Election Day, Tuesday, September 1, polls will be open in the City of New Bedford from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Additional safety requirements including the use of masks/face coverings and the observance of social distancing will be in place due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Any New Bedford resident who is uncertain about their voting status, designated polling location, or who has changed their address since the last election, or any other question should contact the Election Commission office at 508-979-1420.

Track your ballot

After you mail in your ballot, you may track it at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/track/trackmyballot.aspx>

For more information

Visit the state elections division at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm> for more information, including sample ballots at https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/ele20/state_primary_candidates20.htm

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For further information on this property or to schedule a showing, please contact our listing agent, Tim Evans.
Mobile: 617.416.5436 | Email: tim@howeallen.com

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ENTERTAINMENT

Thurs., 8/20: Trivia, 7 p.m. **Sat., 8/22:** Sean Carne
Fri., 8/21: Billy Leetch **Sun., 8/23:** Ed Macedo 5 p

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